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Soviet Jewish Dissidents Say K. G. B. Duped the C. I. A.

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, March 8—Jewish dissidents voiced the belief today that the Central Intelligence Agency had been tricked by the Soviet security police, the K. G. B., into enlisting a doctor who was close to Anatoly Shcharansky, the Jewish activist. They said the effort was made so that the doctor could then use his credentials as an "American agent" to accuse Mr. Shcharansky and others in the human rights movement of espionage.

Intelligence sources in Washington confirmed yesterday that the doctor, L. Lipavsky, had worked for the C. I. A. at his own request for under a 1975-76, supplying information

about the Soviet science community. Dissidents said they thought he had been a K. G. B. agent all the time, sent to the C. I. A. to establish a cover.

In suggesting that the agency might have been duped, the dissident recalled that Dr. Lipavsky had worked as a medical examiner for a drivers' license bureau and appeared to be in a poor position to offer information about the closed circle of Soviet science.

"It means that the C. I. A. officials are not so clever," said Naum S. Meiman, a mathematics professor and member of the self-styled committee monitoring Soviet compliance with the rights provisions of the 1975 Helsinki accords.

The Shcharansky case, expected to come to trial soon, may result in a Soviet-American confrontation, President Carter, who appeared to be taking Soviet dissidents under his wing in the early months of his Administration, has said that the conviction of Mr. Shcharansky on treason charges would hurt relations with the United States.

Professor Meiman and others were critical of both the C. I. A. and the President, who reportedly knew of Dr. Lipavsky's involvement but made no mention of it during a defense of Mr. Shcharansky last June 13. At that time Mr. Carter said he was "completely convinced" that Mr. Shcharansky had never

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worked for the C. I. A.

Several dissidents said they thought the President should have conceded then that Dr. Lipavsky had C. I. A. connections. Mr. Shcharansky, a 30-year-old electronics engineer, had been arrested March 15 after the Government newspaper Izvestia published a letter signed by Dr. Lipavsky accusing several Jews of passing secrets to American diplomats. The doctor, himself a Jew, wrote that he had done C. I. A. work, but was ashamed and bitter about it.

"If Carter had said that Lipavsky worked for the C. I. A., it would have made it better for Tolya," said Vladimir Slepak, a prominent activist, using Mr. Shcharansky's nickname. "If Carter wanted to make things better for Tolya, this will just make things worse," said Mariya Slepak, his wife.

The sources in Washington said Dr. Lipavsky had approached American diplomats offering to supply information on the scientific community. The offer triggered a debate in American intelligence over whether he might be an agent provocateur. The C. I. A. used him for a while, the sources said, then dropped him as having little value.

The incident has raised serious questions among Soviet dissidents. One is the degree to which the C. I. A. feels free to engage them in intelligence work, a practice that many feel could taint their struggle for human rights and free emigration.

Another question is why the C. I. A. thought Dr. Lipavsky could provide useful information. Western reporters who met him found him a pleasant fellow with a nice smile, but given to such extreme

tales about the evils of Soviet life that he was often unbelievable.

"He tried too hard to show how strongly against the regime he was," said Professor Meiman. And Mrs. Slepak noted that in view of his job in the drivers' license bureau, he was hardly qualified to provide information on science.

"If you are a dissident," she said, "where are you going to get scientific information? You've already been dismissed from your job."

As for his C. I. A. connection, dissidents say the fact that he is not in jail proves that he had been a plant.

"How does it happen," Mrs. Slepak said with an ironic smile, "that real spys walk around free and is not being charged? How is that possible? They bring charges not against a real spy, but against an innocent man."

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